

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed on January 4, 2006. Claims 1-20 were examined. Claims 1-11 and 13-20 are rejected and claim 12 is objected to but would be allowable if rewritten. Applicants thank the Examiner for a detailed and thoughtful examination of all the claims.

Claims 1-11 and 13-20 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 13-15, and 17-19 are currently amended. Claim 12 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-10 and 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Van Auken (U.S. Pat. No. 6,577,110). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is currently amended to incorporate all of the limitations of the original claim 12. As pointed out by the Examiner in the Final Office Action, none of prior art of record taken alone or in combination shows the PFM switching signal turning on a power switch transistor during an ON-time and turning off the power switch transistor during an OFF-time, in which the ON-time is shorter than or equal to a predetermined constant ON-time and the OFF-time is longer than or equal to a predetermined minimum OFF-time. Therefore, the currently-amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the art of record, and all of claims 2-10, which are dependent on claim 1, are likewise believed to be allowable at least for this reason.

Claim 13 is currently amended to include limitations: *"a period of delivering energy from the inductive means to the capacitive means is longer than or equal to a predetermined minimum time"* and *"prolonging the period of delivering energy from the inductive means to the capacitive means by prolonging the predetermined minimum time."* Such limitations combined with the originally claimed limitations

are believed to make independent claim 13 allowable over the art of record. All of claims 14-16, which are dependent on claim 1, are likewise believed to be allowable at least for this reason.

Claim 17 is currently amended to include limitations: *"a period of storing energy in the inductive means is shorter than or equal to a predetermined constant time"* and *"shortening the period of storing energy in the inductive means by shortening the predetermined constant time."* Such limitations combined with the originally claimed limitations are believed to make independent claim 17 allowable over the art of record. Both of claims 18 and 19, which are dependent on claim 1, are likewise believed to be allowable at least for this reason.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Auken in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,714,425). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Since Van Auken fails to serve as the rejection ground of 35 U.S.C. §102(e) to independent claims 1 and 17 as carefully and specifically argued earlier, Van Auken in view of Yamada et al. automatically fail to serve as the rejection ground of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to claims 11 and 20 that respectively depend on claims 1 and 17.

Summary

In summary, claims 1-11 and 13-20 are pending in the application. Through careful and reasonable amendments, all of claims 1-11 and 13-20 are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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